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Oct. 14,

1942

On the Spot

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A broadcast by Miss Ruth Van Deman, Bureau of Home Economics, and Mr. Wallace Kadderly, Office of Information, Wednesday, October 14, 1942, in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home Hour, over stations associated with the Blue Network.

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WALLACE KADDERLY: And first off here in Washington we'll be hearing from Ruth Van Deman. And it's information about ways to conserve cloth that she has for us today---how to keep our clothes and household fabrics wearing. And by the way, Ruth, just to help me keep this suit wearing, could you tell me how to get out this spot on my coat sleeve. --- Don't know how or where I got it on...

RUTH VAN DEMAN: Or when?

KADDERLY: It must have just happened. It wasn't there this morning.

VAN DEMAN: Good. At least you can go after it while it's fresh.

KADDERLY: And I think this cloth is 100 percent wool.

VAN DEMAN: Good. You're lucky to know what the cloth's made of. If you know that, you can tell what kind of a stain remover it's safe to try on it.

KADDERLY: And I'm sure the color won't fade. At least this suit's been reined on plenty of times.

VAN DEMAN: Good. Sponging lightly with cold water is sometimes the best way to start taking out a spot...especially if you don't know what caused it. You haven't worked at it with hot water or soap, have you?

KADDERLY: No, no. I just discovered this a few minutes ago.

VAN DEMAN: Good.

KADDERLY: Good? Ruth, what's got into you. Everything I say about this pesky spot here you tell me is good. In another minute you'll almost have me thinking you're glad I stuck my elbow into wallpaper paste or something.

VAN DEMAN: No danger of that. You know I don't wish you any hard luck, Wallace. But maybe I'm like a young doctor with his first patient. I was just writing here to break out our new stain removal bulletin.

KADDERLY: I see....and so you're glad to have me asking first aid for scorched up coat sleeve.... Very well, I'll be the guinea pig.

VAN DEMAN: No, I'm going to let you find the treatment yourself, in here. This bulletin tells how to take out every kind of a common stain from every kind of common cloth - cotton, wool, silk, rayon - even the new synthetics as far as it's possible to describe them.

KADDERLY: Won't I get lost in all this information?

VAN DEMAN: Not if you follow your ABC's. This bulletin's arranged like a dictionary. First comes the ways to take out stains from acids...adhesive tape...

alcoholic beverages...argyrol...and so on.

KADDERLY: I see. First I've got to figure out what caused the stain then what kind of cloth it's on... and then go to it by one of the methods suggested here.

VAN DEMAN: Right. Starting with the simplest way...then going on to one of the others if that doesn't work. And you'll find a list there somewhere of the simple stain removers it's well to keep handy, ready for any emergency.

KADDERLY: Good.

VAN DEMAN: Good? One good turn deserves another, maybe.

KADDERLY: Score one for you, Rath.

VAN DEMAN: Well, quite seriously I know we're all of one mind that we must do everything we can to prolong the wear of every coat, every suit, every dress, every piece of cloth, we have. Taking out spots and stains without damaging the cloth is one way to do it.

And here's another very useful piece of how-to-do-it from the clothing people. This tells how to put a new lining in an old coat, spelled out step by step.

KADDERLY: And helped along with pictures, I see...

VAN DEMAN: Yes, diagrams of how to rip and use the old lining as a pattern for the new...and just how to baste - and sew in the new lining.

KADDERLY: A nice little job in tailoring, I'd say.

VAN DEMAN: More than a little job I think you'd say, Wallace, if you'd ever done it.... But these fine clear directions make it a lot easier.

KADDERLY: And the Bureau of Home Economics has these directions on how to relin a coat ready to send out?

VAN DEMAN: Free for the asking, Wallace.

KADDERLY: And so is the new bulletin on how to take out stain?

VAN DEMAN: Yes. They're both a part of our wartime helps on saving clothes and fabrics...making them last for the duration if possible.

